

Minutes of February 5, 2008

WID/WAC Committee, Queensborough Community College Academic Senate

In Attendance:

Karen Steele, Dean of Academic Affairs

Jeffrey Jankowski, Chair,

Margot Small, Secretary,

Linda Stanley, Co-Director, QCC WI Program ,

Michelle Cuomo, Administration Liason

Sandra Marcus

Julian Stark

The meeting began at 3PM and ended at 5PM.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Requests for student waivers were reviewed and the following waivers were granted

Marlen Caicedo

Ben Freier

Novjot Kaur

Jason Lin

Chana Goldman

Javier En Cen De Wu

Chin Sheng Hsieh

The following student waivers required additional information and were not granted:

Josepj Nathan

Steven Ji Park

Arthur Steer

Ai Ai Lin

Guillerma Rios

A discussion was held with Karen Steele, Dean of Academic Affairs, about increasing student awareness of WI requirement and facilitating students' ability to meet the WI requirement.

Student Awareness:

Student awareness has already increased because the WI requirement is now discussed in ST100. Academic Advising is now advising students of the requirement. Michele Cuomo has undertaken to inform by mail all students with 45 or more credits who have not met their WI requirements that they are missing these requirements. A suggestion was made to inform students after 30 credits, however the number of students involved would be too large to make it work. This semester, Spring 2008, Ms. Cuomo has been

working with students who want to graduate this year in finding WI courses to fulfill their requirements. One current problem is that on-line advisement does not list how much of the WI requirement has been fulfilled. Dr. Steele noted that the problem will not be corrected until next year because the vendor for this program has been changed. In the meantime, efforts will be made to tell faculty advisors about this issue and alert them to use the student transcript inquiry to determine the completion of their WI requirements. Dr. Steele agreed to see if a notice could be provided on-line that the on-line advisement does not provide information on the WI requirement.

In the past, there have been problems with mis-advisement on the WI requirement. Michele Cuomo has been working with Academic Advisement and individual departments to eliminate this problem. In individual departments there have been misunderstandings where departments such as Music Technology and Business did not believe the requirement applied. There has also been a mis-reading of the catalog concerning the transfer of WI credits. These problems will be eliminated.

Providing enough WI courses continues to be a problem. Dr. Steele suggested that we ask all departments to run more WI courses. She noted that while departments are willing their size of the syllabus may prevent converting courses to WI, for example Chemistry 151. She believes that the learning academies which will be across department will be able to improve the offerings of WI courses. Members of the committee noted that currently there are courses for which only some sections are WI. The departments could assist by making the courses WI rather than the sections. Linda Stanley asked if cornerstone courses could be made WI. Dr. Steele responded that neither cornerstone nor capstone courses are now required, so making these courses WI cannot completely solve the problem. Furthermore, many cornerstone courses of a remedial nature, such as Math 005 could not be made WI. She suggested that one way individual departments could increase the WI offerings is to provide courses about special problems in a research topic related to the department, e.g. "Special Problems in Biology". Julian Stark noted that this would work well with a learning academy. Sandra Marcus suggested having winter session courses that are WI. However, Jeffrey Jankowski and Karen Steele felt that WI courses require to great an effort on the part of both students and faculty to be doable in such a short period.

Jeffrey Jankowski remarked that there is a misperception that the committee is granting all waiver requests. In fact, the committee has established criteria for waivers that is being consistently used and the process is under control.